

U.S. Custom House
Whirlpool Street at Lower Arch Bridge
Niagara Falls
Niagara County
New York

HABS No. NY-6152

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE NEW YORK	COUNTY NIAGARA	TOWN OR VICINITY NIAGARA FALLS
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) U. S. CUSTOM HOUSE		HABS NO. NY-6152
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Whirlpool Street at Lower Arch Bridge		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1863		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Served as custom house for Niagara from 1867 to to the present, except for a period from 1908 to 1929 when the Customs House occupied the Federal Building (Post Office) at Main and Walnut.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Native Lewistown limestone		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Two and one-half stories on a basically square plan.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Hipped roof, arched window and door openings on west elevation. For photocopies of photographs of the U.S. Custom House c1965 see data pages 3 & 4. (Originals in field records)		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Purchased by government in 1867. 1869 Remodeled as Custom House and Post Office 1914-1918 Used as button factory, WWI. 1875 Repaired and renovated 1929 Rebuilt by G.S.A. using 1908 Vacated by U.S. Customs original walls		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE U.S. Customs for trains from Canada		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Originally built as a bonded warehouse. The building is built into the railroad embankment ; the south side opens on to the tracks.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Wetmore, James A. (Supervising architect) "Rehabilitation of the Custom House, Niagara Falls, N. Y.", U.S. Department of Treasury, NO. TISA-538. Horton, John, and E.T. Williams and Harry Douglas. History of Northwestern New York (see p2)		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Eleni Silverman, HABS, Architectural Historian from field notes by Charles Thiele (3/12/1965)		DATE July 1984

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (CONT'D):

National Register of Historic Places, 1975, Vol 1., p.515

U.S. Government Printing Office. A History of Public Buildings Under the Control of the Treasury Department, Washington: 1901, p. 419.

Williams, E.T. Niagara County.

See also: National Archives, Letters Received 1843-1910 R.G. 121, Boxes 467-470.



